

BOOK NOTICE

Mosquitoes—Their Bionomics and Relation to Disease. By William R. Horsfall. The Ronald Press Company, New York, 1955. $6\frac{3}{8} \times 9\frac{1}{2}$ inches, viii + 723 pp., 206 tables \$16.00.

Here is an exceptionally practical volume. Its possession would seem imperative for the applied entomologist, research worker, epidemiologist, health officer and ecologist, and highly desirable for the teacher and general entomologist, who may want a compilation of world-wide available information on mosquito ecology regardless of location. The author's remarks on habitats, behavior of the immature stages and experiments on control methods make it obvious why success in mosquito population reduction depends on bionomics. It is assumed the reader has access to taxonomic keys or can otherwise identify the mosquitoes in his vicinity, hence the table of contents refers directly to the 29 genera and their subgenera. Each of the 1800 species and 300 subspecies, or varieties, is treated uniformly as to topic so far as data permit, these headings are: assimilation, associated mosquito species, dispersal, distribution (climatic, geographic), excretion, feeding, generations, hybridization, latency, longevity, mating, oviposition, ovulation, parasites, predators, pathogenesis, reservoir relations (diseases), resistance, respiration, secretion, stridulation, swarming, taxinosis. Data on incidence of infection, discovered by mosquito dissection, provide much information on internal organisms both harmful and innocuous to man. All metamorphic stages are discussed and it is shown where further research is due. Of special interest are the 206 tables that reveal a great amount of information on distribution, parasites, pathogens, etc., in little space. The work concludes with an appendix containing five sections. A glossary of terms provides precise definitions for many words otherwise possibly confusing or indefinite to the reader. A section on techniques gives references for the appropriate manipulation of all stages in the life cycle. A bibliography contains about 4000 references. There is a separate index to genera and species, and a general index. The book is firmly bound, the contents well organized and the pages readily lie flat when it is opened.—Harold R. Hagan